

# The Excavator



**GCS Energy Services Ltd.**

## WINTER 2018

### ***From Greg's Desk...***

**Hello All,**

**Well 2018 went by pretty quick...hard to believe it is almost Christmas!? I hope everyone had a good year and is looking forward to a nice long break over the Holidays to get recharged before we get rolling in 2019.**

**GCS has definitely seen a change in work volume from July to November of this year compared to the last few years. Between some larger projects that we completed in Alberta and the growing workload that has been brought on by the team in Manitoba, we definitely had a much stronger summer and fall this year than we did in 2017. NLS also had a large uptick in work this summer with a couple of solid contract awards and it doesn't look like things will be slowing down in 2019 for them either. Great job to all!**

**I am also happy to say we have some larger winter projects starting up in January, February, March and April of 2019 that will keep our core staff and more working all winter. The prospects for work this summer and fall of 2019 looks promising as well. Hopefully this is a sign that we have finally turned a corner out of the last 3 years of a very difficult economy. It is time to get our company's great team of staff and management operating closer to the level we were used to 4 years ago. Oil prices and governments will ultimately decide that unfortunately, but I remain positive that GCS will persevere and continue to do more and more business across Western Canada going forward.**

**On behalf of my family: Elana, Emily, Liv and Hadlee, I would like to wish you and your family a very happy Holiday Season and a healthy and Happy New Year!**

**Merry Christmas,**

**Greg**

**Staff Count: 135**



# Hardisty Office

In the days leading up to Christmas, it sometimes feels like the holiday can't come soon enough. So while you're counting down the minutes we hope you take time to curl up by the fire, [pour some hot cocoa](#), and share memories of the year and years gone by with the ones you love most. The soft glow of the Christmas tree in the office reminds us of how fast this season creeps up every year and just how much has happened in the last few months...

The Hardisty office underwent an important makeover in September. A new roof was installed which will put an end to the springtime puddles that make their way *inside* the office, keeping our beloved files, computers, and devices warm and dry. If the weather forecasters predictions are right and they're still anticipating mass amounts of snow to come this winter season, we are now adequately prepared.

Todd Armitage and his wife Glenda have renewed their memberships in the New Grandparents Club for a third time! Their daughter Shelby and her husband Jordan welcomed their third child, a daughter. Thea Delilah was born healthy and happy on September 18, 2018. Congratulations to all on another bundle of love!

We welcomed Aidan Metz to the shop at the end of October. Another local talent to join the ranks, Aidan will be pursuing his apprenticeship for Heavy Equipment Technician under the watchful eye of our skilled maintenance team. Welcome aboard Aidan and best of luck!

The Hardisty office also had a few very significant anniversaries to celebrate. Trevor Bitzer (Senior VP) and Max Devey (Hardisty Operations Manager) have been by Greg's side for 20 years now! Not far behind, Troy Schmidt (Heavy Duty Mechanic) just celebrated 15 years and Kelly Weatherly (Hardisty Operations EH&S Representative), 10 years. Congratulations to all of you and cheers to many more!

In the true spirit of the season, wishing you peace and joy. Wishing you the gifts of love, friendship and good health. May love, hope and happiness be yours at Christmas and always.

"The best of all gifts around any Christmas tree: the presence of a happy family all wrapped up in each other" ~ Burton Hill



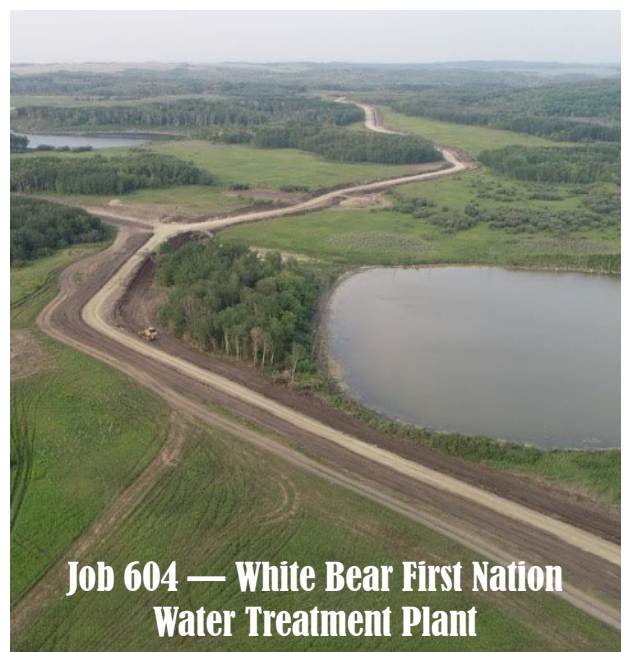
**Job 617 — TransCanada Fox Valley Pump Station**

# Viriden Office & Shop

It's been a busy fall at Viriden Operations. We had 5 Reclamation Crews working for Tundra for most of Summer and Fall. We worked for Corex at 4 different locations for spill clean-up and pipeline projects. We started plowing for Corex in November and installed over 5000 Meters of Flex Pipe for them. James has been out doing cut and cap abandonments for Tundra. We've had 2 crews out all season for Enbridge completing right of way cleanups, right of way maintenance, seeding and spraying. Currently, we are working on a pipeline crossing repair for Bannister. We've just started a 5000 yard gravel haul for the RM of Wallace. In January we will start crushing for the RM of Wallace. Our mechanic is continuing to work on the equipment and prep for the winter season in the shop.

Everyone has worked really hard this construction season. We peaked at 60 for manpower and we are hoping to keep that many and more working into the 2019 construction season.

Thanks for all your hard work and I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



**Job 604 — White Bear First Nation Water Treatment Plant**

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# Red Deer Office

Paul Nixon has got the doctor's OK to come back to work full time here in the shop after his bad spill on his dirt bike. Therefore, we're getting a lot of bigger projects done before the New Year. We're sure happy to have him back and healthy.

Alex has left us but has been replaced by a good little worker, Nolan MacGregor. It's taken us a while to get used to him wearing a kilt around the shop, especially when he's on top of a piece of equipment but his work ethic makes up for it.

The boys have been keeping the shop in good shape. We've been getting good reports on our safety inspections. The yard is starting to fill up so we'll have plenty to get started on in 2019.

From all of us at the Red Deer Office, be safe and have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

# NLS Office & Shop

It has been a very busy year with NLS complement of workers going up to 30 counting 3 contract welders we used as well as a temporary admin. We have an excellent group with the perfect blend of experience and new guys. The goal is to keep all our new employees working as we continue to grow.

NLS has been very busy with TEML sleeving and the crew came in yesterday for the year. There is 1 dig left that's in the middle of a slough that TEML is going to wait until the area freezes then attempt to dig and sleeve the area.

The guys were road warriors and put in a lot of hours to keep the tight schedule of getting everything done in 2018. There was a total of 68 Integrity digs of varying lengths which NLS was able to complete and now we will be getting the turnover packages ready for turnover.

As NLS grows we require more equipment, tools, vehicles and personal. We have added to our fleet of service trucks as well as our portable welding trucks.

We have also been busy for K+S as they have jobs, they want finished in the 2018 budget year. We will be finishing the mechanical part of one of them with a hydrotest today.

We have 2 guys welding K+S Inconel pipe (Bands) and will be out there for at least 6 months, working ten-hour days, 4 days a week. We also have one of our Pipefitters onsite doing maintenance odds and ends for K+S as they have bumped their own fitter up to a planner temporarily. Our fitter will be on site till the end of January at least. With this we also frequently have a welder who goes out as required.

We are in the final stages of the Odessa Station work for Enbridge and will have the piping ready for hydro in Early 2019 as we are missing some material.

NLS is in the process of getting our Quality Program recognized in Alberta through ABSA. In early 2019, NLS will be coming to the Red Deer shop to do a mock up job for our ABSA certification.

NLS has gotten our Manitoba Quality Program approved as well as getting our weld procedures approved and accepted in Manitoba this fall.

At the end of October, NLS went through our COR audit and thanks to Randi we were able to get the required grade, so we are good for another 3 years.

We have Lorne and Shawn from GCS in Regina giving our office a face lift of new siding. Steven is working hard bidding mechanical jobs trying to get NLS even more work.

NLS has had an extremely busy and productive summer and fall and we are all ready for a little down time with our family and friends over the Christmas Holidays. We wish all of GCS a Safe and Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and we look forward to working with you all in 2019.



**NLS Job 758 — Sleeving for TEML**



# Field Projects

## Job 596 — Line 3 Replacement Hardisty Connectivity



### ONGOING PROJECTS:

#### **Job 576 — Pembina Lator Phase V — Grande Cache, AB**

Shane and crew will be returning to Job 576 to continue supporting the Lator Phase V expansion work. They will be installing precast concrete pipe duct in conjunction with the pipe installation, supporting the septic upgrades for the Operations facilities, and completing snow removal as well as other site support activities.

#### **Job 592 — Graham Bridge Construction MI 6847 — Morris, MB**

We've just finished up the earthwork on the west side and are waiting for power poles to be moved on the east side to finish earthwork there. We have a break for 2 weeks then will be coming back to finish up installation of some rip rap on the river bank. We will be installing A Base to prepare for asphalt and demoing the old bridge next Spring 2019.

#### **Job 594 — Manitoba Infrastructure MI 6851 — Boissevain, MB**

This job is shutdown until next spring. We will be coming back then to lay base aggregates in preparation for asphalt.

#### **Job 599 — Civil Pipeline ROW Work for Enbridge**

#### **Job 600 — Enbridge Bakken Civil Pipeline ROW Work**

#### **Job 601 — Tundra Reclamation — Virden, MB**

#### **Job 602 — Corex Reclamation with Matrix — Virden, MB**

#### **Job 161 — Bannister Pipeline Crossing Repair**

#### **Job 603 — Southeast Development — Portage La Prairie, MB**

This job is substantially completed. Curb, gutter and asphalt will be completed in Spring 2019.

#### **Job 604 — White Bear First Nation Water Treatment Plant — Regina, SK**

This job is substantially completed. We will be coming back in the new year to finish up some extra work items.

#### **Job 611 — MI 6877 Bridge Construction Over Pipestone Creek — Cromer, MB**

This job is Complete. We will come back in the spring to finish seasonal deficiency items like installation of the erosion control blanket and seeding.

### COMPLETED PROJECTS:

#### **Job 591 — Town of Hardisty DEMO — Hardisty, AB**

#### **Job 596 — Line 3 Replacement Hardisty Connectivity — Hardisty, AB**

#### **Job 609 — Suncor Emulsions — Firebag Site**

#### **Job 613 — Deloraine Community Flood Protection — Deloraine, MB**

#### **Job 616 — Early Civil Work for Pump Station 05 — Bindloss, AB**

#### **Job 617 — Early Civil Work for Pump Station 06 — Fox Valley, SK**

### UPCOMING PROJECTS:

#### **Royal Aviation Museum — Winnipeg, MB**

Expected Start Date: April 2019

Scope: PCL Constructors Canada have selected GCS as the preferred proponent for the underground civil portion of the museum. This project will begin in October, and it's exciting to be part of this high profile project.

#### **Gladstone Water & Sewer Renewal — Gladstone, MB**

Expected Start Date: April 2019

Scope: Water & sewer renewals.

#### **Suncor Emulsion Project — Firebag Site**

Expected Start Date: February 2019

Scope: Excavation and backfill for building foundations. Install gravel and clay berms.



## Job 604 — White Bear First Nation Water Treatment Plant

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# Safety Corner



The right of an individual to work in a healthy and safe environment will always take priority over an individual's right to use an impairing substance which may result in a workplace incident

## DRUG TESTING

A drug and alcohol testing cut-off level is the point where the amount of a substance within the body goes from allowable to unallowable.

When a person has more of an impairing substance in their body than the allowable limit, they've exceeded what they can legally have, and can test positive on a drug and alcohol test, regardless of their level of judgement, function, or ability.

If they're under the allowable limit, they'll test negative. By employing cut-off levels, governments and organizations can maintain fairness and promote safety.



50ng/mL

INITIAL  
TESTING CUT-  
OFF LEVEL

Because everybody reacts slightly differently to impairment-causing conditions and substances, and because their tolerances vary...

...the **cut-off level** concept has been adopted as a way to ensure public and personal **safety**.

Marijuana cut-off level





# Safety Corner

## What do you need to know?

**WHERE IT COMES FROM:** Marijuana is the dried leaves, flowers, stems, and seeds from the Cannabis Sativa or Cannabis Indica plant.

**WHAT IT IS CALLED:** It is also known as pot, weed, ganja, bud, grass, mary-jane, and other slang terms,

**WHAT DOES IT CONTAIN:** marijuana contains THC, a **mind-altering** chemical compound.

Smoking marijuana isn't like smoking tobacco. It doesn't have the same effect.

**Tobacco doesn't cause impairment**

## How people react to the drug depends on:

### Different uses different effects

Marijuana use has all sorts of effects on your body.

Your body will use or react to the herb differently based on how it is ingested

### Methods of ingestion

**SMOKING:** When you smoke cannabis, you use heat to create psychoactive THC. Through inhalation it makes it into your bloodstream

**EDIBLES:** Unlike inhaled cannabis, edible cannabis is metabolized by the liver

**OILS:** Medical cannabis oil is a highly concentrated cannabis extraction and can be taken orally or vaporized

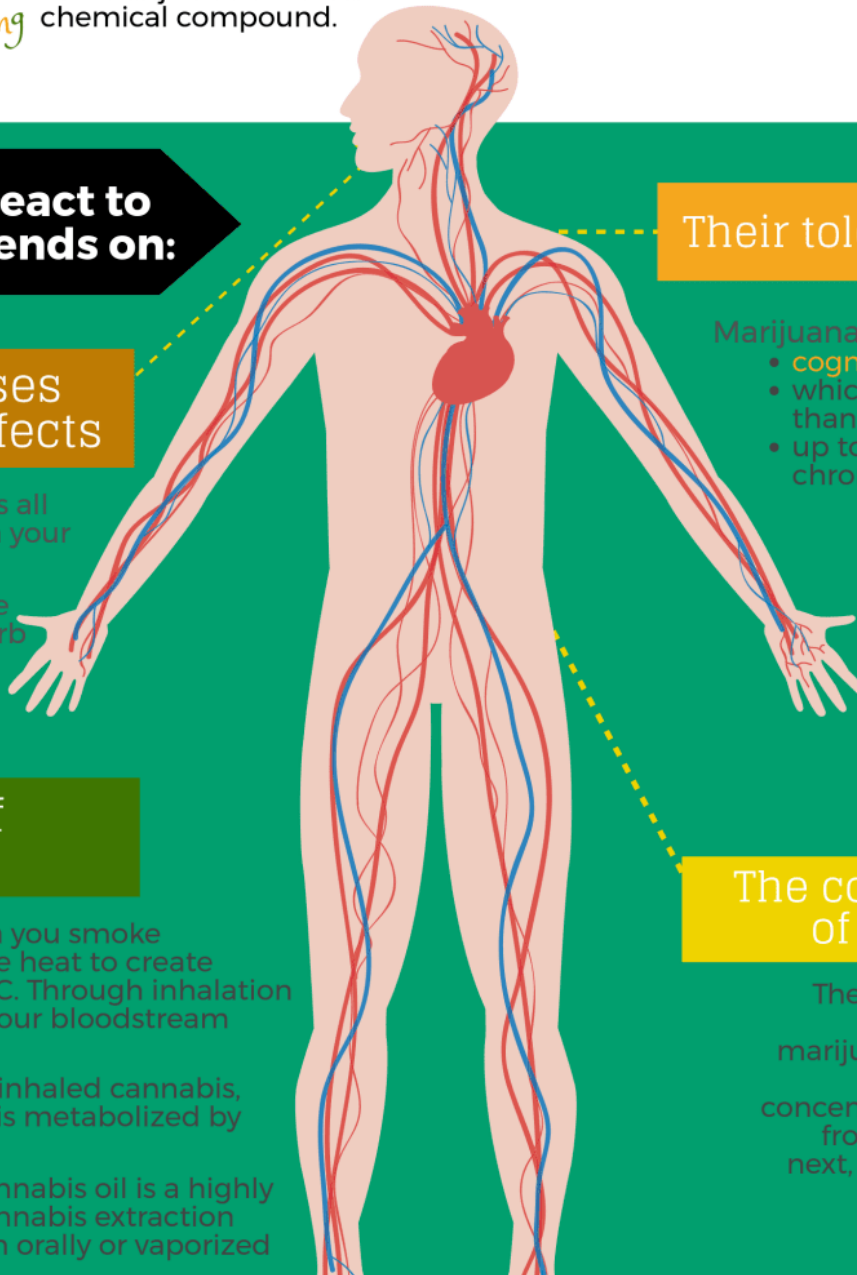
### Their tolerance level

Marijuana can cause:

- cognitive impairment
- which last for more than 24 hours, and
- up to 20 days in chronic users

### The concentration of the drug

There's no regulated strain or dose of marijuana currently on the market. concentration can differ from one use to the next, and is difficult to gauge





# GCS Company Golf Tournament



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# ***Around GCS***

**A little summer recap...**



Our Equipment Sales & Rentals Rep, Jennifer Silva, took a trip to Portugal this summer and captured this picture of some workers building a wall! I'm not sure this would be an approved GCS Safe Work Practice...

Thank-you to Katie, Randi and Suzan for doing such a great job on the GCS float for the 2018 Hardisty Stampede Parade!

Troy and Masin Schmidt represented GCS during the event by driving and throwing the candy. Thanks guys!



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# ***Around GCS***

**CONGRATULATIONS to these Anniversary Award Recipients!**

**Trevor Bitzer — Sr. Vice President**

**Max Devey — Hardisty Ops Manager**

**Troy Schmidt — Mechanic**



**Greg Rarick — Truck Driver**

**Kelly Weatherly — Hardisty EH&S**

**Jill McIntosh — HR Advisor**



**Kim Lamb — Truck Driver**

**Cole Scott — Project Manager**

**Paul Nixon — Mechanic**



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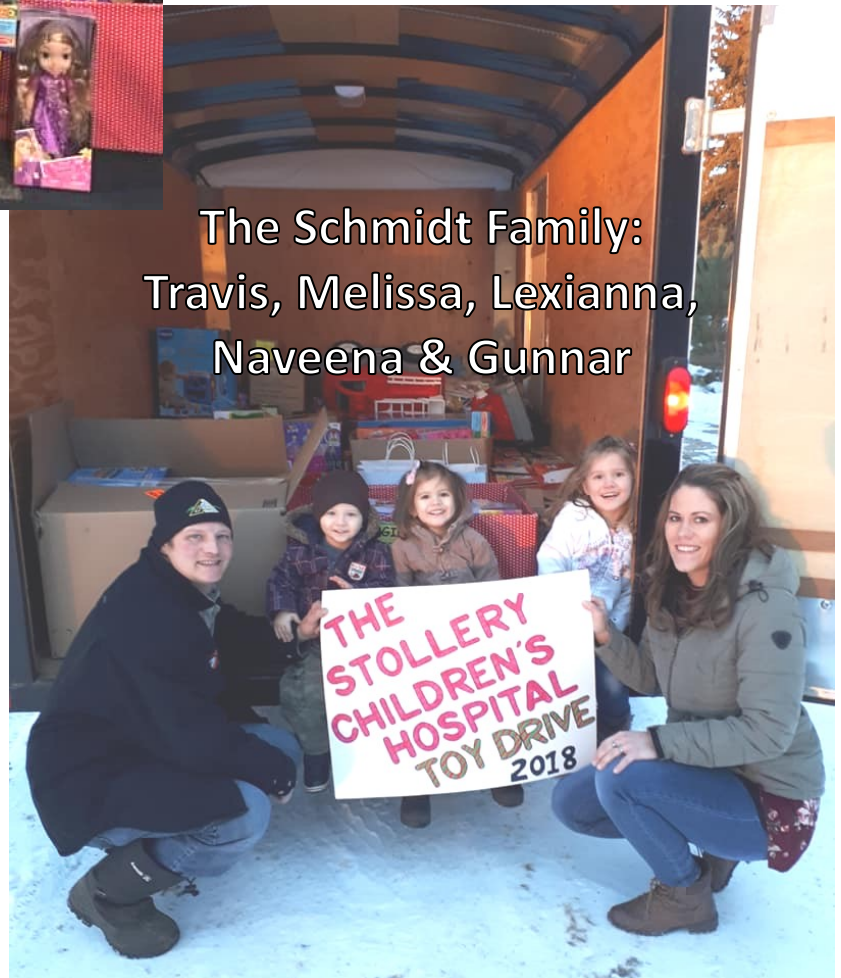
# ***Around GCS***



Thank-you to everyone who donated toys or cash to the Stollery Children's Hospital! It was an overwhelming success!



HAPPY 30th BIRTHDAY  
to GCS Project Manager, Cole Scott!!



The Schmidt Family:  
Travis, Melissa, Lexianna,  
Naveena & Gunnar

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